

Message Text

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SUBJECT: ELECTION 74: NDP OFFICIAL PREDICTS TRUDEAU MINORITY
GOVERNMENT

1. CLIFFORD SCOTTON, FEDERAL SECRETARY OF THE NEW
DEMOCRATIC PARTY (NDP) TOLD THE POL COUNSELOR,
EVENING JUNE 14, THAT HE BELIEVES THAT THE LIBERAL
PARTY WILL EMERGE FROM THE JULY 8 ELECTION WITH ANOTHER
PLURALITY AND THAT PIERRE TRUDEAU WILL CONTINUE AS
PRIME MINISTER OF A MINORITY GOVERNMENT.

2. SCOTTON DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY PARTY HAS
SUCCEEDED IN PERSUADING THE ELECTORATE THAT IT HAS
THE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF INFLATION AND THE
RISING COST OF LIVING. ALL PARTIES AGREE IT IS
CANADA'S NUMBER ONE PROBLEM AND IT IS THE NATIONAL
ISSUE OF THE CAMPAIGN. BUT BECAUSE OF THE INABILITY,
OR LACK OF SUCCESS, OF ANY OF THE NATIONAL LEADERS TO
ARTICULATE A COURSE OF ACTION WHICH THE VOTERS BELIEVE
WILL SOLVE THE PROBLEM, HE IS BEGINNING TO BELIEVE
THAT LOCAL ISSUES MAY PROVE TO BE DECISIVE. THIS
WILL VARY FROM REGION TO REGION, OR MORE ESPECIALLY
FROM RIDING TO RIDING. IN THIS EVENTUALITY, THE
RIDING CONTEST WILL TURN ON THE INDIVIDUAL CANDIDATE
AND THE ORGANIZATION BEHIND HIM OR HER. AND IN
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THIS KIND OF POLITICAL CLIMATE, SCOTTON BELIEVES

THE RESULT WILL ESSENTIALLY BE CONTINUATION OF THE STATUS QUO.

3. HE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT ANY PARTY WILL MAKE SIGNIFICANT GAINS AND EXPECTS THAT ONLY THE SOCIAL CREDIT PARTY MAY LOSE SUBSTANTIALLY. SCOTTON EXPECTS THAT THE LIBERALS WILL PICK UP THESE SEATS IN QUEBEC WHICH WOULD OFFSET LOSSES TO THE CONSERVATIVES ELSEWHERE.

4. SCOTTON ANTICIPATES A NOW VOTER TURNOUT BECAUSE OF THE LOCAL ISSUE ORIENTATION THAT THE CAMAIGN SEEMS TO BE TAKING. THEREFORE, HE BELIEVES THAT THE PARTY ORGANIZATION THAT SUCCEEDS IN GETTING ITS CORE VOTERS OUT WILL HAVEAN ADVANTAGE -- AND THE NDP IS WORKING HARD TO ACCOMPLISH THIS GOAL.

5. IN THE EVENT OF A CONSERVATIVE PLURALITY VICTORY WITH ROBERT STANFIELD AS PRIME MINISTER OF A MINORITY GOVERNMENT, SCOTTON STATED THERE WOULD BE NEW ELECTIONS BY THE END OF THE YEAR, POSSIBLY IN DECEMBER. THIS IS NOT AN OUTCOME WHICH THE NDP WOULD LIKE FOR THEY ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR OWN FATE IN WHAT, WOULD BE, IN EFFECT A RUN-OFF ELECTION. SCOTTON FEARS THERE WOULD BE A POLARIZATION AROUND THE TWO MAJOR PARTIES IN WHICH THE NDP COULD SUFFER SERIOUS LOSSES.

6. IF THIS IS THE LIKELIHOOD OF A TORY PLURALITY VICTORY, WHY THEN DID THE NDPJOIN THE CONSERVATIVES IN FORCING AN ELECTION? SCOTTON SAID THE NDP SIMPLY COULD NO LONGER SUPPORT THE TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT AND ESPECIALLY THE PHILOSOPHY INHERENT IN THE TURNER BUDGET. PHILOSOPHY AND PARTY PRINCIPLES ASIDE, SCOTTON SAID THERE IS A DEGREE OF POLITICAL MASOCHISM IN THE NDP PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS WHICH WOULD CAUSE IT NOT TO SHY AWAY FROM THE DANGER OF POLITICAL PAIN AND SUFFERING.

7. RE SCOTTON'S STATEMENT IN PARA 5 ABOUT NEW
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ELECTIONS IN THE EVENT OF A TORY PLURALITY, DAVID LEWIS, NDP NATIONAL LEADER, STATED IN A NATIONAL RADIO INTERVIEW JUNE 16 THAT WHICHEVER PARTY HEADED A MINORITY GOVERNMENT, HE DID NOT EXPECT NEW ELECTIONS FOR SEVERAL YEARS. LEWIS SAID IT WOULD BE INCUMBENT ON ALL PARTIES TO TRY TO MAKE PARLIAMENT WORK FOR 3 TO 4 YEARS--AND THAT WOULD BE NDP'S COMMITMENT.
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